



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE HARVARD EXPEDITION TO SAMARIA

In the *Review* for January, 1909, an account was given of the excavations carried on by Harvard University at Samaria in the summer of 1908. The work of that year extended, with serious interruptions, from April 24 to August 21, and was confined mainly to the summit of the hill and to a building beside the threshing-floor near the village of Sebastiyeh. At the summit, and only a few inches below the surface, a paved platform, or floor, was uncovered, with a broad stairway of seventeen steps leading up to it from the north. On the stairway was found an inscribed stele, and a few feet in front of the foot of the stairway a large altar with another inscribed stele standing beside it. Near this altar lay a fine statue of heroic size, carved in white marble, representing a Roman emperor. Massive foundation-walls resting on the rock were uncovered on the south of the platform. Several periods of construction were recognized in these buildings, and one of these periods was believed to be that of Herod the Great.

For 1909 it was planned to begin work in April and continue until rainfall in the autumn. Digging did not, however, begin till May 31, although the explorers reached the place on May 7. The delay was due to the disturbed state of affairs in Turkey, and particularly to the late arrival of the imperial commissioner at Samaria. Once begun, the work was pushed with great vigor until rain came about the middle of October, and was not finally closed until November 14.

This campaign has been in charge of Professor George A. Reisner, assisted by Mr. Clarence S. Fisher, architect. The problems at Samaria are very complicated, owing to the disturbance of the site in successive periods of construction, to robbery of the older structures for building material, and to the terracing of the hill for agricultural purposes. For the solution of these problems Dr. Reisner's long experience in Egypt has given him an admirable training. Dr. Reisner took with him about thirty-

five of his experienced Egyptian workmen, and by their aid he has trained the local helpers to a degree of efficiency hitherto unknown in Palestinian exploration. The total working force has averaged about 285 persons.

As in the previous year, the chief interest has centred about the summit. On the southeast, south, and southwest of the platform a considerable tract has been cleared down to the rock. The plan of a temple, ascribed to Herod the Great, has been laid bare, and also the plan of a reconstruction of this temple, ascribed to Alexander Severus. Beneath the floor-level of these temples are remains of Greek buildings. Of particular interest are the massive outlines and a portion of the wall of a still older structure, which Dr. Reisner thinks is the palace of Omri and Ahab. The identification of these ruins as a Hebrew palace is accepted by Professor Hugues Vincent of Jerusalem, a leading authority on Palestinian archaeology, who has declared this to be the most instructive discovery yet made for the correct understanding of Israelite architecture. In a subterranean chamber beneath the palace, were found several fragments of pottery with Hebrew inscriptions, but, unfortunately, no royal name has been recognized on them.

Extensive digging has also been carried on to the south of the palace, partly on a lower terrace. A fragment of a cuneiform inscription with a Hebrew seal-stamp was found near the foot of a wall which seems to be in the Babylonian style. A massive Roman wall has been found which probably enclosed the temple-precincts, while a fragment of a fine Hebrew wall more than sixteen feet in thickness probably formed part of the palace enclosure. On the lower level was a vast complex of structures, Hebrew, Greek, and Roman.

At the gateway on the west side of the hill one of the two towers flanking the gate was dug out. It is a round tower of Roman masonry, resting on a larger square foundation of Greek origin, beneath which is a still larger cleared space of rock which gives the outline of the ancient Hebrew tower. The Roman city-wall running north from this tower was laid bare, also remnants of other walls recognized as Babylonian and Hebrew. Between the two towers Herod's gateway was identified, and the paved

Roman road leading up to it from the outside. It is hoped that next season the Hebrew road leading to the gate may be found below the Roman.

The building near the village has been further cleared, down to the level of its floor. It seems to be of Herodian origin, and to have been connected with the forum, which Dr. Reisner supposes to lie beneath the threshing-floor on the east, where many large fragments of masonry lie scattered about. In places the excavations have gone below the floor-level, revealing massive foundations belonging to earlier buildings believed to be Hebrew.

The small objects usually found in such excavations came to light in all of these diggings, such as coins, fragments of pottery, metal, bone, seals, lamps, and fragmentary inscriptions.

It is expected that a fuller report by Dr. Reisner will be published in the April number of the *Review*.

DAVID G. LYON.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.